

|                               |                        |                     |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 10/573,157             | CHAUVILLE ET AL.    |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                               | Nancy Bitar            | 2624                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/13/2006</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>01072008</u>.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</li> </ol> |
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stern Zachary on 01/07/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claims 1,4-15,19-30 as follows:

In claim 1 please delete [said] on line 10 and insert "said" between (the) and (method.)

In claim 4 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 3] and insert "claim 3" after according.

In claim 5 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 4] and insert "claim 4" after according

In claim 6 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 5] and insert "claim 5" after according

In claim 7 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 5] and insert "claim 5" after according

In claim 8 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 5] and insert "claim 5" after according

In claim 9 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 5] and insert "claim 5" after according

In claim 10 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 9] and insert "claim 9" after according

In claim 11 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 9] and insert "claim 9" after according

In claim 12 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 9] and insert "claim 9" after according

In claim 13 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 12] and insert "claim 12" after according

In claim 14 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 13] and insert "claim 13" after according

In claim 15 please delete [any one of claims 1 to 14] and insert "claim 14" after according

In claim 19 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 18] and insert "claim 18" after

according

In claim 20 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 19] and insert "claim 19" after

according

In claim 21 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 20] and insert "claim 20" after

according

In claim 22 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 20] and insert "claim 20" after

according

In claim 23 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 20] and insert "claim 20" after

according

In claim 24 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 20] and insert "claim 20" after

according

In claim 25 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 24] and insert "claim 24" after

according

In claim 26 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 24] and insert "claim 24" after according

In claim 27 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 24] and insert "claim 24" after according

In claim 28 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 27] and insert "claim 27" after according

In claim 29 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 28] and insert "claim 28" after according

In claim 30 please delete [any one of claims 16 to 29] and insert "claim 29" after according

2. Claims 1-30 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While Shweyer et al (6208766) teaches a method for improving the contrast of an image by calculating an average clarity and an average contrast of the image wherein the parameter values are interpolated in the entire image without the transitions between the light regions and dark regions of the image (column 3 line 29- column 4, line 66, figure 4, 5). Mancuso et al. (6108455) teaches a noise filter that uses a processing window with a target pixel and several neighboring pixels. The noise filter includes an image processor that generates a replacement value for the target pixel in the processing window based on a weighted average of the absolute values of degrees of similarity between the target pixel and the plurality of neighboring pixels. The noise filter recursively processes the noise levels to adapt to the local features of the scanned image, as well as to adapt

to changing noise levels of neighboring pixels. None teaches the digital image is modified differentially for each of the pixels and quasi-regularly for the contiguous pixel thus the modification of the image takes place while using the local content of the image wherein, the parameterization is regularized, in such a way that these variations are in a sense that is smaller than that of the digital image. The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

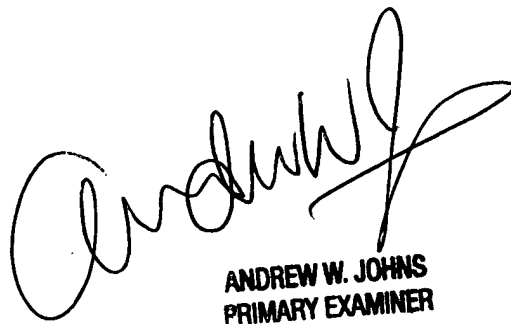
Application/Control Number:  
10/573,157  
Art Unit: 2624

Page 6

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar

01/07/2008



ANDREW W. JOHNS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER